

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10 are pending and stand rejected. In this Response, no claims are amended, no claims are cancelled and no claims are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10 in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0137551 to Toba ("Toba") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0063041 to Kurashima ("Kurashima"). Applicant respectfully traverses the aforementioned rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites:

1. A display apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of display panels, each showing different displays;
a single display panel driving unit for commonly operating the plurality of display panels; and
a connection switch for physically and electrically inter-connecting the single display panel driving unit with the display panels;
wherein the display panel driving unit includes:
a display panel driver shared by the display panels; and
a display path control unit for controlling the display panel driver,
wherein the portion of the display panel driver is enabled by the display path control unit according to which one of the plurality of display panels are activated.

While Applicants' argument here is directed to the cited combination of references, it is necessary to first consider their individual teachings, in order to ascertain what combination (if any) could be made from the cited references.

Toba is generally directed a mobile communication terminal with an external display unit. As correctly recognized by the Examiner, "Toba fails to teach wherein a different portion of the display panel driver is enable (*sic.*) by the single display panel driving unit according to

which one of the plurality of display panels are activated,” as in Claim 1. As a result, the Examiner relies on Kurashima to teach the above-highlighted feature of Claim 1.

Kurashima does disclose that a different electrode in each display panel is inactivated or activated, and “the unused panel can be non-displaying” (Kurashima, [0025]), however that is something different from a display panel driving unit that includes “a display panel driver shared by the display panels; and a display path control unit for controlling the display panel driver, wherein a different portion of the display panel driver is enabled by the display path control unit according to which one of the plurality of display panels are activated,” as in Claim 1.

Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that Kurashima teaches that a different portion of a display panel driver is enable according to which one of the plurality of display panels are activated, as in Claim 1. In contrast with Claim 1, Kurashima discloses that “the drive circuit may include the functions of stopping a signal supply to the fourth electrode when the first panel is displaying; and stopping a signal supply to the second electrode when the second panel is displaying” (referring to paragraph [25]).

However, since the driver circuit of Kurashima does not include electrodes, which are disposed on the display panel, and just includes the functions of stopping a signal supply to the electrodes, the display panel driver of Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the driver circuit of Kurashima. In other words, Kurashima explicitly requires that main display 1A and sub-display 2A share the wires to which an image signal and scanning signals are supplied from drive IC7. (See para. [0082].) As a result, the same portions of IC7 are active with the shared scanning signal being omitted from the unused display regardless of whether main display 1A or sub-display 2A is active. (See para. [0087].)

Hence, no combination of Toba and Kurashima could teach or suggest that a different portion of the display panel driver is enabled or disabled according to the activation of one of the plurality of display panels (see Applicant’s to FIG. 8), as in Claim 1.

For each of the above reasons, therefore, Claim 1 and all claims which depend from Claim 1, are patentable over Toba in view of Kurashima as well as the references of record.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1-3 and 10.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba in view of Kurashima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,874,928 to Kou (“Kou”). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba in view of Kurashima and Kou and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0111200 to Nikawa (“Nikawa”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Each of Applicant’s other independent claims includes limitations similar to those in Claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, all of Applicants’ other independent claims, and all claims which depend on them, are also patentable over the cited prior art for similar reasons. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of Claims 6-8.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants’ silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

CONCLUSION

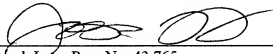
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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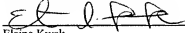
Dated: 2/11/08

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

 2/11/08
Elaine Kwak Date